BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

ACHIEVEBC

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2007AE0004-000110
Feb. 8, 2007

Ministry of Advanced Education

LANSBRIDGE UNIVERSITY TO CLOSE MAY 1

VICTORIA – Lansbridge University will close on May 1, and the Province will assist students by appointing a liaison to help them transfer to other schools to complete their education, Advanced Education Minister Coell said today as he released an independent inspector's report.

"It was necessary to take this action to protect the long-term best interests of students," Coell said. "The report makes it clear that Lansbridge University has not complied with the terms and conditions set out under Degree Authorization Act, nor taken the necessary action to correct many of the problems identified in the inspection. We do not believe Lansbridge can meet the standards we require of a university operating in this province."

Between now and May 1, Lansbridge University will not be allowed to register any new students. It must repay student fees for programs extending beyond May 1 – including to those students who paid more than 12 months of tuition in advance – and it must also advise each student about the closure and post a notice on its website. Lansbridge University must also work with its students to help them transfer to other institutions so that they can complete their programs. Lansbridge University must report to the minister by Feb. 14 on its progress.

Coell appointed lawyer Deborah Lovett to do an inspection of Lansbridge University in October 2006 after concerns were raised about the institution's financial viability and security, and whether it was living up to requirements under its ministerial consent to operate.

"Ms. Lovett's thorough report and thoughtful recommendations have formed the basis of the actions I am announcing today," Coell said. "However, I feel strongly that we must go further, given the seriousness of the contraventions. As a result, we are giving the institution time to shut down in an orderly fashion so students can complete their current semester. I am also appointing a liaison officer to work with those students who will need to transfer to other schools to complete their education."

Nineteen private and out-of-province public institutions offer degrees in B.C., along with about 530 private career training institutions.

"I am very proud of the reputation B.C. has for its post-secondary education system, and I intend to take all necessary steps to maintain the integrity of the degree programs offered in this province," Coell said.

-more-

The report is posted on the Ministry of Advanced Education's website at: www.aved.gov.bc.ca/degree-authorization/latestnews.htm

-30-

1 factsheet(s) attached.

Media contact: Jennifer McCrea
Communications Director
250 952-6508
250 888-0023 (cell)

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

FACTSHEET

2007AE0004-000110
Feb. 8, 2007

Ministry of Advanced Education

LANSBRIDGE UNIVERSITY (B.C.) CLOSURE

Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell appointed lawyer Deborah Lovett to conduct an inspection of Lansbridge University's operations in B.C. on Oct. 30, 2006. The inspector's report found that:

- Lansbridge appears to have advertised its programs without consent under the Degree Authorization Act.
- Lansbridge provided information that could be considered misleading in documents it submitted in its application to the degree quality assessment board.
- Lansbridge failed to maintain financial security as required by the degree authorization regulations and the terms and conditions of consent.
- Lansbridge failed to comply with the consent conditions relating to storage and security of student transcripts.
- Lansbridge failed to comply with the condition that limits a student's financial obligation to 12 months. The university's website and 2005-06 calendar stated that students could receive a 25 per cent discount on their tuition if the full program amount was paid in advance.
- Lansbridge failed to comply with the special condition requiring it to retain an expert acceptable to the degree quality assessment board.
- The state of Lansbridge's student files raises serious questions about administration, admissions standards, credit transfer criteria and similar issues.

The minister has accepted the inspector's recommendations with enhancements, and has:

- Changed the consent period for Lansbridge to operate in B.C., to a period that terminates effective May 1.
- Ordered Lansbridge not to enrol any new students before consent ends.
- Ordered Lansbridge to advise its students, in writing, of the closure date and post this information on its website.
- Ordered Lansbridge to refund tuition paid by students for financial obligations beyond May 1.
- Ordered Lansbridge to work with its students to facilitate transfer arrangements to other post secondary institutions.
- Begun the process to appoint a liaison officer for students to provide further assistance and support by working with students and other post-secondary institutions to make transfer arrangements for students who will not have completed their study programs by May 1.

-30-

Media contact: Jennifer McCrea
Communications Director
250 952-6508
250 888-0023 (cell)

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.